

The Taliban Closes Beauty Salons in Afghanistan

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The Taliban, a political and military group with strong beliefs based on their interpretation of Islam, regained power in Afghanistan in August 2021. They are known for strict rules, particularly towards women's rights and freedoms. Many of the Taliban's new rules exclude women and girls from education, public spaces, and most types of employment.

The Taliban recently announced that they're going to close all women's beauty salons in the country. They said this is because these salons offer beauty treatments that they believe are not allowed in Islam. They also mentioned that these salons create financial problems for families during weddings, as it's traditional for the groom's family to pay for the bride's salon visit.

This decision has raised eyebrows across the world. Many people are scared about what this could mean for women in Afghanistan, especially those who own or work in these salons. This is just one more rule that the Taliban has put in place that limits the rights of women and girls in the country.

In a video, a Taliban spokesperson mentioned specific salon services that they believe are morally wrong. These included shaping eyebrows, using hair extensions, and applying makeup.

This new decision to close beauty salons will have a big impact on women who own or work in them. Many women who relied on the salons for their income now face an uncertain future, as they will lose their jobs and means of supporting their families.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is one reason the Taliban provided for closing the beauty salons?
 - a) They are too expensive for most families.
 - b) They go against their interpretation of their religion.
 - c) They are causing a public health risk.
 - d) They are distracting from education.
2. "This decision has raised eyebrows across the world." What does the phrase "raised eyebrows" mean in this context?
 - a) People were surprised and concerned.
 - b) People were angry and protested.
 - c) People were supportive and applauded.
 - d) People were bored and tired.
3. Which of these services did the Taliban spokesperson call morally wrong?
 - a) Hair cutting and hair extensions.
 - b) Shaping eyebrows and applying makeup.
 - c) Nail care and skin treatments.
 - d) Spa treatments and massages.
4. Which of these statements is NOT true?
 - a) The Taliban believe certain salon services are wrong.
 - b) The closure of beauty salons will impact women who own or work in them.
 - c) New rules implemented by the Taliban limit the rights of women and girls.
 - d) The closure of beauty salons is supported by everyone in Afghanistan.



5. Who is mostly affected by the closure of beauty salons in Afghanistan?
- The Taliban.
 - The owners and workers of beauty salons.
 - Men in the country.
 - Foreign investors in beauty salons.
6. What could be a possible impact of the salon closures on Afghan society?
- Increased equality between men and women.
 - More job opportunities for men.
 - Fewer job opportunities for women.
 - Improved economic status for families.
7. How does the Taliban's choice to close beauty salons match their usual rules for women?
- It is a change from their usual strict rules.
 - It matches their usual rules of limiting what women can do.
 - It shows they want to make women's money situations better.
 - It shows they care about women's health.
8. Why do the Taliban think beauty salons create financial problems during weddings?
- Because it is the groom's family's responsibility to pay for the bride's salon visit.
 - Because the salons increase their prices for weddings.
 - Because the salons require prepayment for wedding services.
 - Because the salons charge extra for wedding makeup.
9. What does the Taliban's decision to close beauty salons show about their values?
- They value economic prosperity above all.
 - They value the principle of equality.
 - They value strict adherence to their interpretation of a religion.
 - They are jealous that they cannot get their beards trimmed or nails painted at the salons.
10. What is the main idea of the article?
- The Taliban are closing beauty salons to promote traditional weddings.
 - The Taliban are closing women's beauty salons in Afghanistan due to their interpretation of Islam.
 - Women in Afghanistan are choosing to close their beauty salons.
 - Beauty salons in Afghanistan are harmful to the economy.

Speaking and Writing Activities:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
- Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.

1. How important are places like beauty salons in your life and in your culture?
2. In your country of origin, are women and men equal? Explain.
3. How have women's roles and rights changed over time in your country of origin?

